

In the Specification:

Please amend paragraph [0001] as follows:

[0001] This application is a continuation-in-part of co-pending U.S. Patent Application 10/663,941 and of co-pending U.S. Patent Application 09/379,511, now U.S. Patent 6,712,221, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application 08/419,492, now U.S. Patent 5,998,740.

Please amend paragraph [0008] as follows:

[0008] This method is quite advantageous, once it has been ascertained beforehand, by sampling, that the average weight of the parts is, and in which weight range the parts occur, i.e., what the so-called spread is. The current calculations, based on a preprogrammed normal distribution curve, may be performed with limited data (equipment, a.o.) because according to normal practice one may allow that a new part may simply be fed to the first of such part portions which waits for a part in the weight class represented by that part, even though, as will be discussed below, the part might have been placed more appropriately in another of these part portions.

Please amend paragraph [0017] as follows:

[0017] With the invention it has been realized that with the use of a more advanced data processing system it is possible to currently create a specific picture of the factual weight distribution without relying on any predetermined or pre-expected distribution curve based on general statistics. According to the invention the weights of the incoming and currently weighed parts ~~are~~ are methodically registered in a serial register basically of the FIFO type (First In, First Out), such that the different weights of a representative number of consecutive parts, for example the latest 50-500 parts, are recorded in such a manner that it is possible to form a histogram or a similar representation of the number of parts located within respective narrow weight ranges, e.g., 5 g as pertaining to an acceptable overweight of 10 g and an acceptable underweight of 5 g. The general picture of the weight distribution may well be rather confuse compared to some standard distribution curve, but at each moment of time it will be notorious that the last plurality of parts was weight distributed according to the said

histogram. There is reason to believe, therefore, that even the following parts will be equally weight distributed, and the following computations may be based on that expectation.

Please amend paragraph [0018] as follows:

**[0018]** However, should the factual weight distribution undergo a change for any reason, be it an initiated picking out of all parts of one or more specific weight ranges or a general shift of the material supply to another source of supply, the characteristic distribution histogram will soon adjust itself to the changed situation, such that it will steadily be reasonably representative for the incoming parts, fully independently of statistical norms of distribution. Thus, the histogram may clearly reflect e.g. the absence of all parts of a certain weight category, whether these parts are actually missing in the supply flow or they are successively selected for separate collection in dedicated bins.

Please amend paragraph [0055] as follows:

**[0055]** In more general, the remaining two pieces for building up of a full target portion from stage 26 in FIG. 10 may be combined by parts from several of the available part weight ranges according to FIG. 8. This leads to ~~to~~ he said backwards calculations, turning  $(26+15+11=52)$  into  $(52-15-11=26)$ . Thus, for the stage 26 of FIG. 10, it is relevant to operate with a probability function given by the sum of the following twenty combination possibilities, these being listed with their respective probability values (FIG. 8):

- |     |                     |   |
|-----|---------------------|---|
| 1.  | $52 - 15 - 11 = 26$ | $0.05 \times 0.07 \times 0.02 = 0.0007$ |
| 2.  | $52 - 14 - 12 = 26$ | $0.05 \times 0.08 \times 0.15 = 0.0006$ |
| 3.  | $52 - 13 - 13 = 26$ | $0.05 \times 0.10 \times 0.10 = 0.0005$ |
| 4.  | $52 - 12 - 14 = 26$ | $0.05 \times 0.15 \times 0.08 = 0.0006$ |
| 5.  | $52 - 11 - 15 = 26$ | $0.05 \times 0.20 \times 0.07 = 0.0007$ |
| 6.  | $51 - 15 - 10 = 26$ | $0.05 \times 0.07 \times 0.40 = 0.0014$ |
| .   |                     |   |
| .   |                     |   |
| .   |                     |   |
| 11. | $51 - 10 - 15 = 26$ | $0.05 \times 0.40 \times 0.07 = 0.0014$ |
| 12. | $50 - 14 - 10 = 26$ | $0.80 \times 0.08 \times 0.40 = 0.0256$ |

- 
- 
- 

**[0069]** A very simple control model will be to specify, by way of example, that each bin should receive at first a predetermined number of items of a first type, up to a predetermined partial batch weight for that type of items, following which the process goes on with an addition to each partial batch of the required number of another type of items for the building up of an additional predetermined partial batch weight or target weight for items of this type, and so forth until the batch is finished. In practice, when the items of all types are supplied in mixed formation, the computer should be programmed such that different bins should receive respective different types of items, thus avoiding that all bins at a time will call for only the same type of items.

For example, a single feed line can supply chicken parts which are then sorted to a parallel series of bins, one set receiving a first type(s) of chicken parts and the other set receiving a different second type(s) of chicken parts (e.g., wings and breast to one set and thighs and legs to another, or all like parts to one set and mixed parts to another). Alternatively, the same type(s) of parts could be delivered to both sets of bins, with the weight set for one series being higher than for the other so as to produce so-called “family packs” in one set of bins and smaller “standard” size packs in the other set of bins.